

Submitter: Ryan Hewlett  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210  
Public Testimony Opposing SB 210

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210, a bill that seeks to dismantle Oregon's highly successful and secure vote-by-mail system. This legislation is an unnecessary, harmful, and blatant attempt to restrict access to the ballot box, making it harder for Oregonians to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Oregon has been a national leader in vote-by-mail for over 20 years, demonstrating that accessible elections can also be secure and efficient. Our current system increases voter participation, reduces administrative costs, and eliminates the barriers that in-person-only voting would impose—especially for working people, rural residents, the elderly, and those with disabilities. There is no legitimate reason to strip away a system that has worked so well for so long.

SB 210 is a solution in search of a problem. Voter fraud in Oregon is virtually nonexistent, and our elections have consistently been conducted with integrity and transparency. The real effect of this bill is not election security—it is voter suppression. By forcing Oregonians to vote only in person on Election Day, this bill creates unnecessary obstacles for those who rely on mail-in voting to make their voices heard.

It is particularly insulting that while this bill eliminates mail-in voting for most Oregonians, it conveniently carves out exceptions for military members and those with out-of-state addresses. If vote-by-mail is secure for them, why isn't it secure for the rest of us? The answer is clear: it is secure. The only difference is that certain lawmakers prefer to make it harder for everyday citizens—especially those who may not vote the way they want—to cast their ballots.

Voting should be as easy and accessible as possible for every eligible citizen. This bill does the opposite. I urge you to reject SB 210 and stand with Oregonians in protecting our right to vote in a way that has worked for decades.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Hewlett